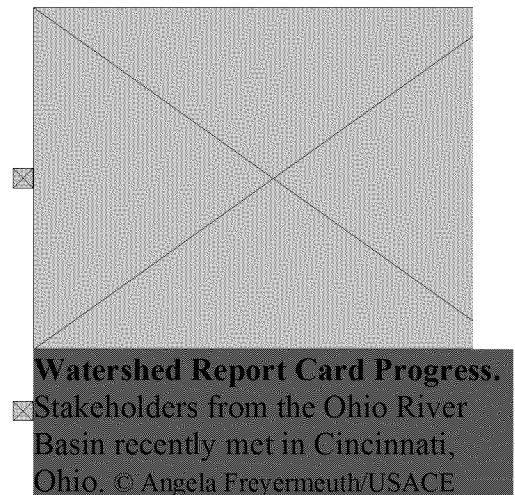
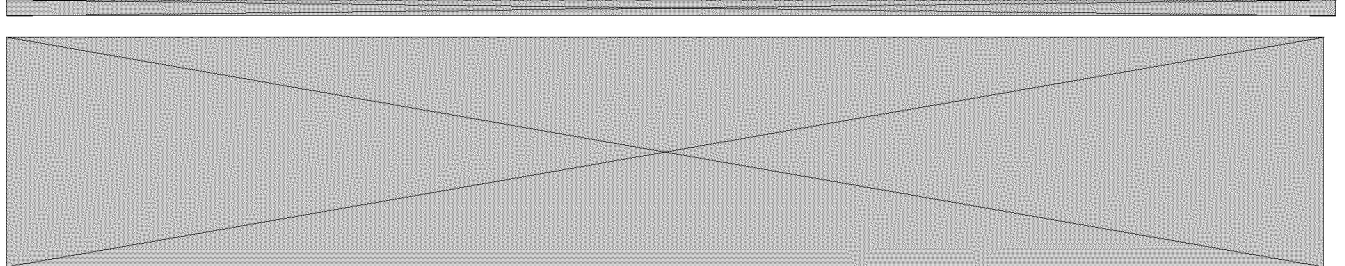


To: Stoner, Nancy[Stoner.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: America's Watershed Initiative
Sent: Tue 2/18/2014 3:45:54 PM
Subject: Winter Update from America's Watershed



Dear America's Watershed Supporter,

Thank you for your continued support in advancing the vision of [America's Watershed Initiative](#). We are moving forward on a variety of projects to enhance America's Watershed—the Mississippi River watershed. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at hjordahl@tnc.org.

Mark Your Calendar:

2014 America's Watershed Summit

We invite you to join us for the 2014 America's Watershed Initiative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, to share information and engage with different geographies and sectors in supporting a common vision for watershed health and advocacy for collaborative improvements. Learn more at www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/AWI.

Watershed Report Card Progress

In December in Cincinnati, Ohio, America's Watershed hosted the second of a series of six report card workshops. The first, for the Upper Mississippi, took place in Moline, Ill., in September. These workshops include water resource and land management experts who

provide input on issues relevant to their basin. Read more about the Ohio River workshop [online here](#). Learn more about the report card process at AmericasWatershed.org.

The third report card workshop for the Lower Mississippi River sub-basin is scheduled to take place March 25-26 in Memphis, and additional workshops will occur within the next six months for the remaining sub-basins—the Missouri, the Arkansas and Red rivers. A draft report card will be presented at the [America's Watershed Initiative Summit](#) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Recent Reminders of Water's Importance

Water is one of the most essential elements of life. Too much or too little of it can have huge impacts on our quality of life. Our nation's great rivers are one of the main sources of water, and over the last few years these rivers have reminded us just how important of a role they play in water supply and demand.

In Spring 2011, the Mississippi River had a record flood event in which people fought to save lives, property and habitat. Less than a year later the same river system was in drought, and, once again, people worked together, this time to ensure the nation's greatest marine highway remained operational and water supply remained for various community along the river. In Spring 2011, the Mississippi River had a record flood event in which people fought to save lives, property and habitat. Less than a year later the same river system was in drought, and, once again, people worked together, this time to ensure the nation's greatest marine highway remained operational and water supply remained for various community along the river.

In 2013, floods again wreaked havoc on certain parts of the river and its tributaries—including a record-breaking event on the Illinois River—testing the infrastructure put in place to protect lives and reduce risk to property.

Already in 2014, water has made the news in Charleston, West Virginia, where residents went days without reliable sources of drinking water due to a chemical leak within the Ohio River Watershed. And the *New York Times* painted a bleak future for [California citizens facing water shortages](#) if a sustainable and collaborative agreement can't be reached. While we can't predict the future, we can work together to plan for the future. America's Watershed Initiative is working with numerous river partners, citizens and lawmakers to bring the importance of water to the forefront of discussions. [Learn how to become involved](#).

Revitalizing River Towns

Charles City, Iowa, recently produced a 4-minute video the City's newly revitalized riverfront along the Cedar River, which is prone to frequent flooding. In 2013, the Charles City received the EPA's National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. [Learn more and watch the video online](#).

On a related note, the National Journal published a feature highlighting ways in which river communities in the Mississippi River Watershed are using bike trails, parks and

natural areas to enhance life for their citizens and increase tourism. [Read the full article online.](#)

Nature's Role in Managing Floods

Spring often brings with it more than just blooming flowers. Floods typically occur in late winter or spring. The Nature Conservancy has produced several communication tools designed to help explain how marshes, wetlands and forests can play a role in helping reduce flood risks for communities while also delivering other benefits, such as improved water quality and enhanced recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. The new tools include a [downloadable fact sheet](#), a web page (nature.org/floods), and a [Floodplains by Design animated video](#). The Conservancy also teamed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to produce “A Tale of Two Floods”—a video that explains how the “Great Flood” of 1927 led to the creation of the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project, which was put to the test during the flood of 2011. The video includes interviews with “Rising Tide” Author John Barry and Major General John Peabody, commander of the Corps’ Mississippi River Valley Division. ([Watch a 30-second trailer](#) or the [full 6-minute version](#) now.) Key messages produced for use after floods are also available by e-mailing Jay Harrod at jharrod@tnc.org.

Thanks again for your support.

-- Jordy Jordahl
Director, [America's Watershed Initiative](#)

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